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VII.—IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANCIENT PERSIAN MONTH GARMAPADA IN THE LIGHT OF THE RECENTLY FOUND ARAMAIC PAPYRUS FRAGMENTS.

Various views have been expressed respecting the season of the Ancient Persian month *Garmapada*, e. g., March-April (Oppert), July-Aug. (Justi). The recently discovered Aramaic Papyrus fragments of the Behistan Inscription (*Aramäische Papyrus und Ostraka*, Sachau, 1911) give in No. 62 a mutilated account of the two battles with the pretender Vahyazdâta, the latter of which occurred near Mt. Parga on the 5th of the month in question. The Aramaic which everywhere translates the Babylonian version reads here, Col. I, l. 17 :

קטל חילנא זוי ----- ת בירח ת ---

“smote the army of [Vayazdâ]t. In the month T”. (Pers. *avam kâram tyam Vahyazdâdahya ajan vasiy Garmapadahya mâhyâ V raucabiš θakatâ āhan*, III, ll. 46-7. For the final ת and the following lacuna Sachau proposes *Tišrî* (*der Monat kann Tišrî gewesen sein*, n. p. 195).

Now the only two Bab. months which in Aramaic would begin with ת are *Tammuz* (Aram. תמוז) and *Tišrî* (Aram. תשרי). Sachau's supplement *Tišrî* (Sept.-Oct.) places the Persian month too late in the calendar to account for its etymology, **garma*, “warm”, Skt. *gharma*, Av. *garəma* (New Pers. *garm*) + *pada*, “step”, “station”, Skt. *pada*, YAv. *paða* (New Pers. *pai*). This undoubtedly signifies the season of the greatest heat.

There remains, then, *Tammuz* (June-July) as the only month with which *Garmapada* can be identified. About such identification I feel there is no longer any doubt. Not only does the season of the year justify its etymology, but it brings this second battle in the second month following the first battle fought at Rakhâ on the 12th day of *Thûravâhara* (Bab. *Iyyar*, April-May). That the Aramaic fragment contains here the parallel account of these two engagements with the second Pseudo-Smerdis, the

annihilation of his forces and the execution of the usurper is clearly seen from such expressions as, Col. I, l. 12:

ת - - - זי אמר] אנה בר[זי

"[Vayazdâ]t who said; I am Barzî" (Pers. *Vahyazdâta hya Bardiya agaubatâ*, III, l. 35); Col. I, l. 16:

לער[ק]ה [זי ארתור[ז]י למענבר

"against Artavarzî to make [battle], (Pers. *patiš Artavardiyam hamaranam cartanaiy*, III, l. 36); Col. II, l. 2:

ויזרת אחרו

"they seized Vayazdât", (Pers. *avam Vahyazdâtam agarbāyan*, III, l. 48).

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